

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 and 26-30 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

Claims 1-3 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action dated March 11, 2003 states that the submission for the RCE filed December 23, 2002 (i.e., the November 25, 2002 Amendment After Final Rejection, entered as a preliminary amendment) was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because the preliminary amendment changes the scope of the claims to a non-elected invention group. Specifically, the Office Action states that the original and finally rejected claims are drawn to exit pupil control means, and the preliminary amendment changes the scope of the claims to image display illumination. In response, the control means feature of Claim 1 has been amended to recite exit pupil control means, as it did prior to the November 25, 2002 Amendment After Final Rejection. Conforming amendments have been made to Claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims are again directed to exit pupil control means.

Applicants further submit that the arguments presented in the November 25, 2002 Amendment After Final Rejection remain applicable to the claims as amended herein. Specifically, Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature recited in the "wherein" clause of Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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